Climate Review for the month of February 2012

Presented by:

BelMel Publishing

Summary

February was a warm and dry month with a dominating ridge over the region. During the month high pressure systems were mainly over the region, but there were a few times that a trough moved our area. Some low pressure systems were formed around the Gulf States and moved across the CWA. Average temperatures were above normal. Maximum temperatures ranged in the low 50s to low 70s while low temperatures were in the low 30s into 40s throughout our CWA.

La Nina weather patterns was evident across the United States. Regardless, La Niña has weakened during the month of February as sea surface temperature started to increase in the eastern equatorial Pacific. The latest Niño indices were -0.7°C for the Niño 3.4 region which according to CPC this is considered to be a weak to moderate La Niña. Drought conditions across our CWA continue to be in a D1 (Abnormally Dry) and dry conditions are expected to continue.

DISCLAIMER from Bel: The climate data provided are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by NCDC. Therefore…this data is subject to revision.

Average Temperatures within our CWA

	Avg_ Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	59.6	na	40.1	na
Cape Hatteras	58.9	54.6	43.0	39.0
New Bern	60.9	57.4	37.5	35.5
Greenville	58.8	55.2	35.0	33.5
Kinston AG	60.5	59.9	38.5	34.5
Williamston	57.9	55.0	36.1	33.6
Plymouth	57.9	57.6	36.5	34.4
Aurora	57.0	56.8	39.4	36.3
Bayboro	59.6	58.9	37.3	35.1

Average temperature within the CWA 1 to 4 degrees above normal.

Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

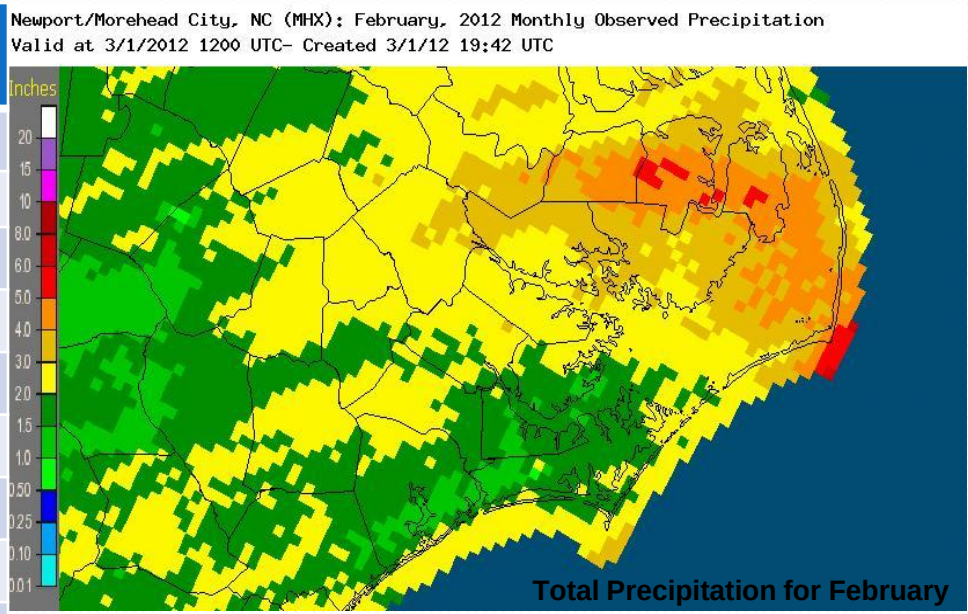
	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	71	25
Cape Hatteras	70	29
New Bern	78	24
Greenville	79	21
Kinston AG	77	24
Williamston	78	23
Plymouth	75	20
Aurora	76	25
Bayboro	75	27

Mild temperatures occurred throughout the month while the coldest nights for most locations was the 11th/12th.

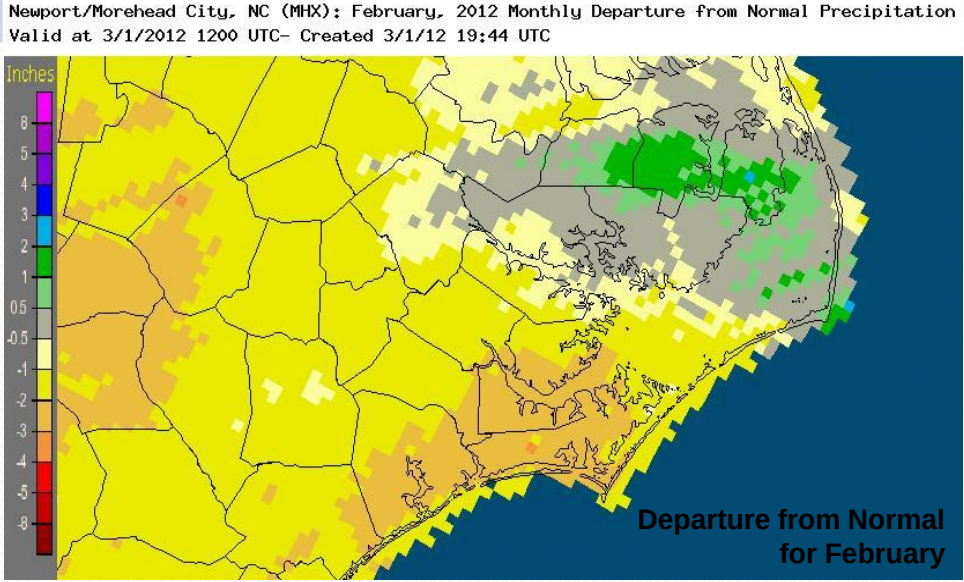
February's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	2.13	na	na
Cape Hatteras	3.43	3.94	-0.51
New Bern	2.22	3.8	-1.58
Greenville	2.78	3.45	-0.67
Kinston AG	2.2	3.53	-1.33
Williamston	3.72	3.34	0.38
Plymouth	3.5	3.45	0.05
Aurora*	0.94	3.07	-2.13
Bayboro	2.79	3.25	-0.46

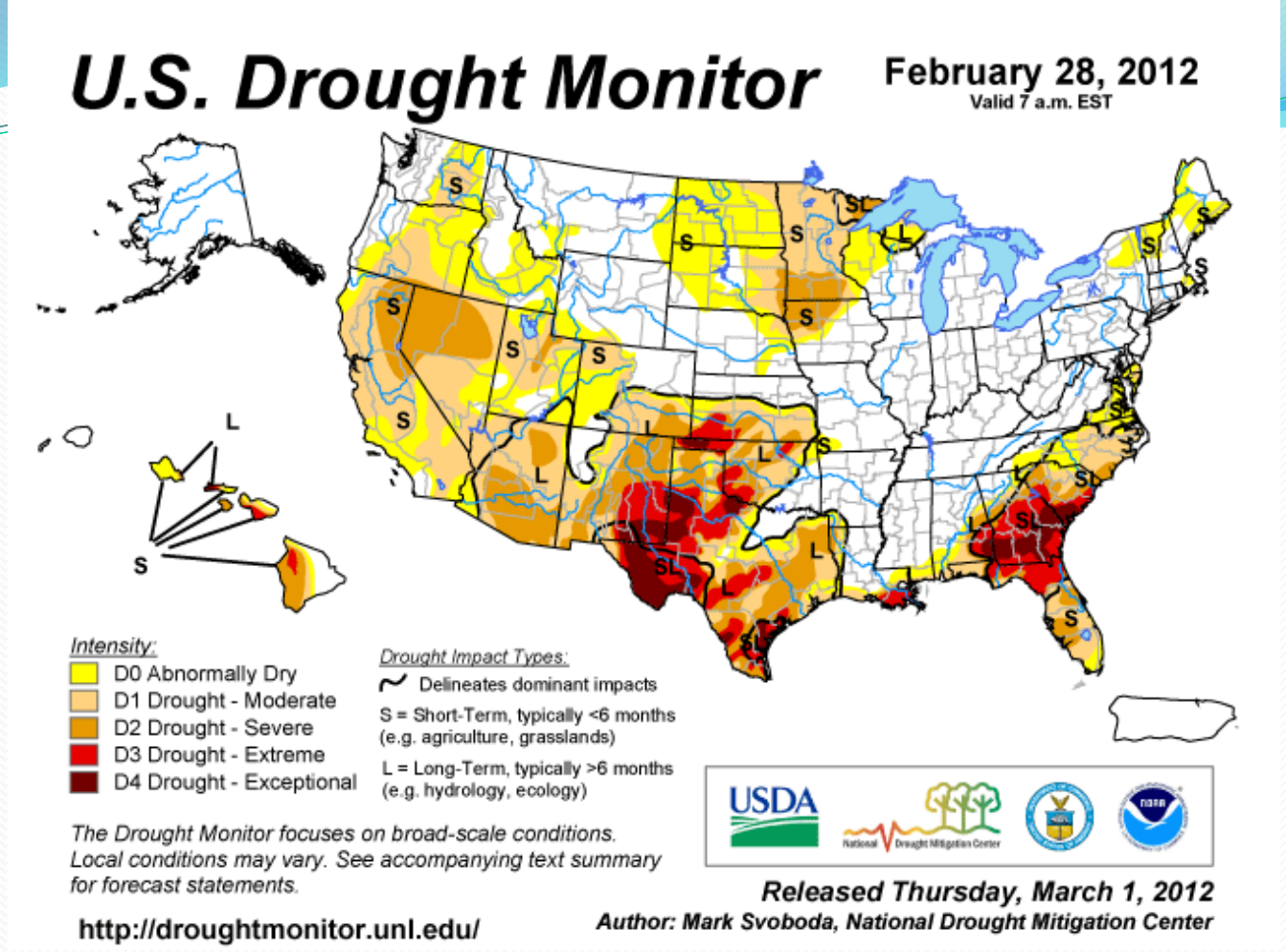
Extremely dry month was observed this month.



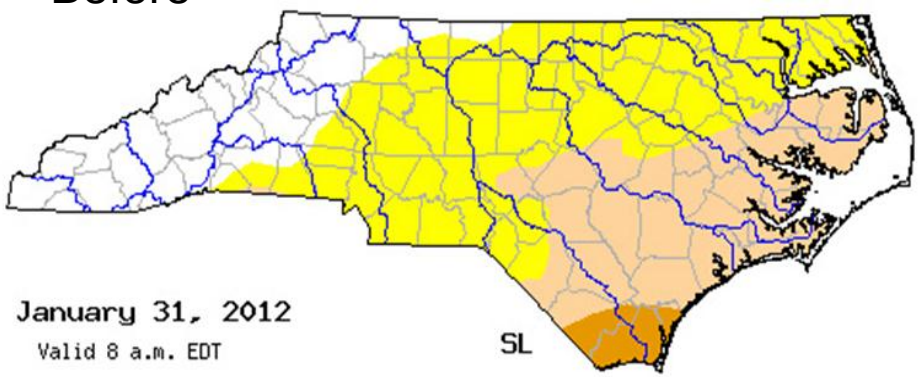
Total Precipitation for February



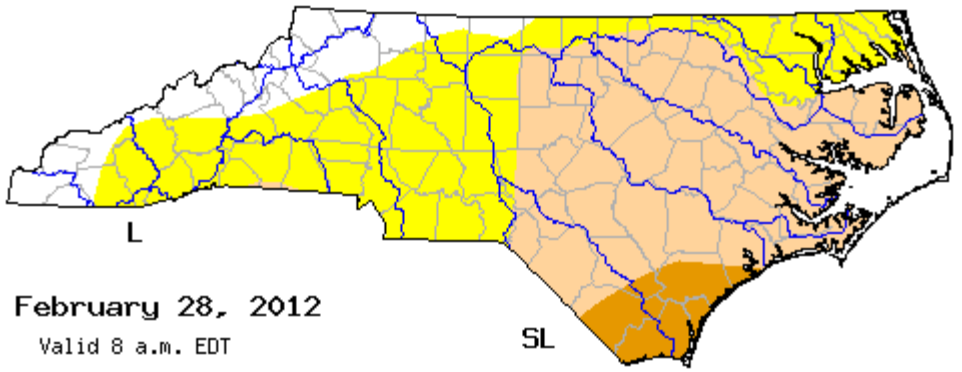
Departure from Normal for February


U.S. Drought Monitor
February 28, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST
Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
USDA
Released Thursday, March 1, 2012
Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Before


January 31, 2012
Valid 8 a.m. EDT
SL

Now

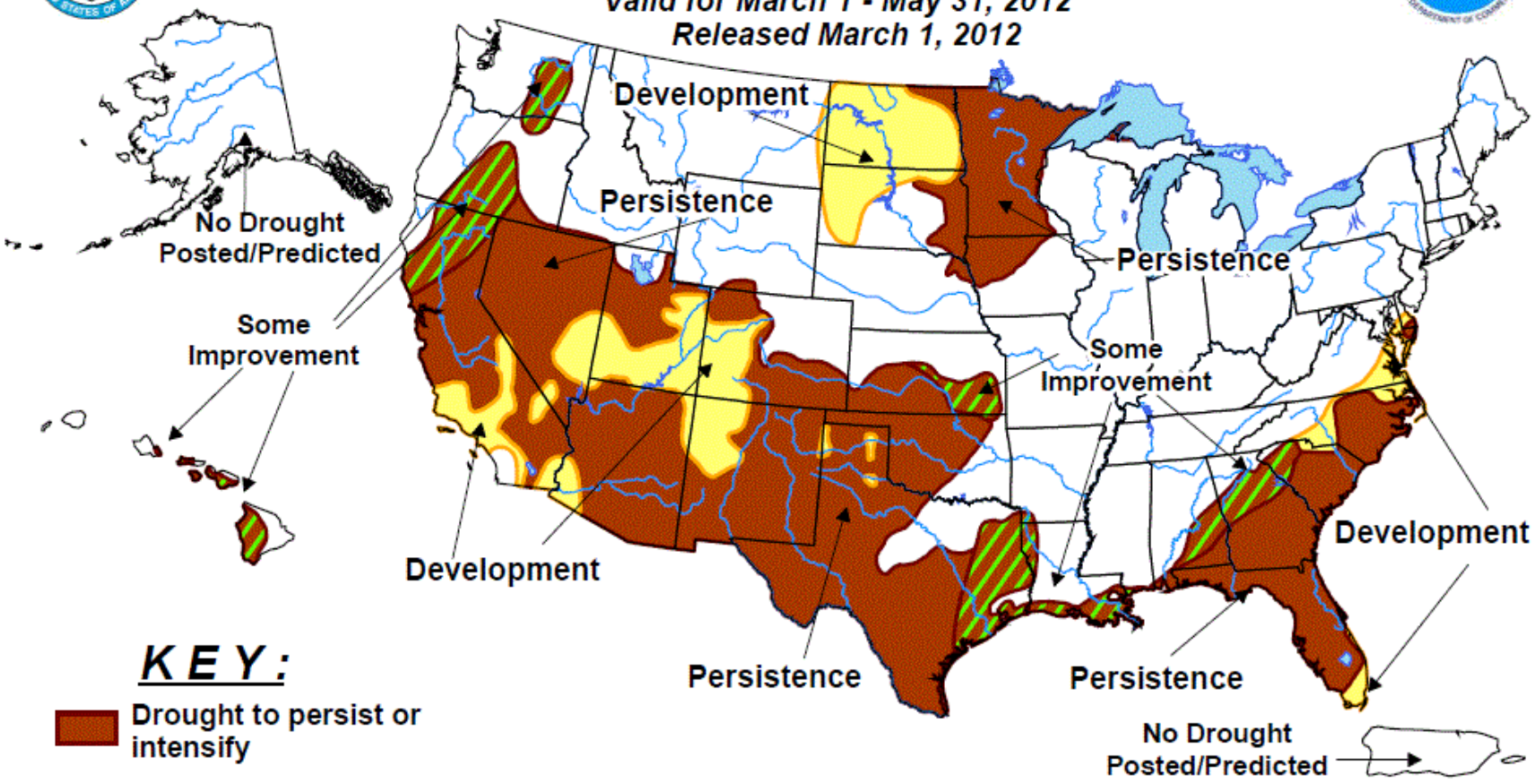

L
February 28, 2012
Valid 8 a.m. EDT
SL

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 1 - May 31, 2012

Released March 1, 2012



K E Y :

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.